

# The Real Story of the Ride of Paul Revere



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_

# **William Wadsworth Longfellow's Version**

# **The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere**

By: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Written: April 19, 1860

Listen my children and you shall hear  
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,  
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-five;  
Hardly a man is now alive  
Who remembers that famous day and year.

He said to his friend, "If the British march  
By land or sea from the town to-night,  
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry arch  
Of the North Church tower as a signal light,--  
One if by land, and two if by sea;  
And I on the opposite shore will be,  
Ready to ride and spread the alarm  
Through every Middlesex village and farm,  
For the country folk to be up and to arm."

Then he said "Good-night!" and with muffled oar  
Silently rowed to the Charlestown shore,  
Just as the moon rose over the bay,  
Where swinging wide at her moorings lay  
The Somerset, British man-of-war;  
A phantom ship, with each mast and spar  
Across the moon like a prison bar,  
And a huge black hulk, that was magnified  
By its own reflection in the tide.

Meanwhile, his friend through alley and street  
Wanders and watches, with eager ears,  
Till in the silence around him he hears  
The muster of men at the barrack door,  
The sound of arms, and the tramp of feet,  
And the measured tread of the grenadiers,  
Marching down to their boats on the shore.

Then he climbed the tower of the Old North Church,  
By the wooden stairs, with stealthy tread,  
To the belfry chamber overhead,  
And startled the pigeons from their perch  
On the sombre rafters, that round him made  
Masses and moving shapes of shade,--  
By the trembling ladder, steep and tall,  
To the highest window in the wall,

Where he paused to listen and look down  
A moment on the roofs of the town  
And the moonlight flowing over all.

Beneath, in the churchyard, lay the dead,  
In their night encampment on the hill,  
Wrapped in silence so deep and still  
That he could hear, like a sentinel's tread,  
The watchful night-wind, as it went  
Creeping along from tent to tent,  
And seeming to whisper, "All is well!"  
A moment only he feels the spell  
Of the place and the hour, and the secret dread  
Of the lonely belfry and the dead;  
For suddenly all his thoughts are bent  
On a shadowy something far away,  
Where the river widens to meet the bay,--  
A line of black that bends and floats  
On the rising tide like a bridge of boats.

Meanwhile, impatient to mount and ride,  
Booted and spurred, with a heavy stride  
On the opposite shore walked Paul Revere.  
Now he patted his horse's side,  
Now he gazed at the landscape far and near,  
Then, impetuous, stamped the earth,  
And turned and tightened his saddle girth;  
But mostly he watched with eager search  
The belfry tower of the Old North Church,  
As it rose above the graves on the hill,  
Lonely and spectral and sombre and still.  
And lo! as he looks, on the belfry's height  
A glimmer, and then a gleam of light!  
He springs to the saddle, the bridle he turns,  
But lingers and gazes, till full on his sight  
A second lamp in the belfry burns.

A hurry of hoofs in a village street,  
A shape in the moonlight, a bulk in the dark,  
And beneath, from the pebbles, in passing, a spark  
Struck out by a steed flying fearless and fleet;  
That was all! And yet, through the gloom and the light,  
The fate of a nation was riding that night;  
And the spark struck out by that steed, in his flight,  
Kindled the land into flame with its heat.  
He has left the village and mounted the steep,

And beneath him, tranquil and broad and deep,  
Is the Mystic, meeting the ocean tides;  
And under the alders that skirt its edge,  
Now soft on the sand, now loud on the ledge,  
Is heard the tramp of his steed as he rides.

It was twelve by the village clock  
When he crossed the bridge into Medford town.  
He heard the crowing of the cock,  
And the barking of the farmer's dog,  
And felt the damp of the river fog,  
That rises after the sun goes down.

It was one by the village clock,  
When he galloped into Lexington.  
He saw the gilded weathercock  
Swim in the moonlight as he passed,  
And the meeting-house windows, black and bare,  
Gaze at him with a spectral glare,  
As if they already stood aghast  
At the bloody work they would look upon.

It was two by the village clock,  
When he came to the bridge in Concord town.  
He heard the bleating of the flock,  
And the twitter of birds among the trees,  
And felt the breath of the morning breeze  
Blowing over the meadow brown.  
And one was safe and asleep in his bed  
Who at the bridge would be first to fall,  
Who that day would be lying dead,  
Pierced by a British musket ball.

You know the rest. In the books you have read  
How the British Regulars fired and fled,---  
How the farmers gave them ball for ball,  
>From behind each fence and farmyard wall,  
Chasing the redcoats down the lane,  
Then crossing the fields to emerge again  
Under the trees at the turn of the road,  
And only pausing to fire and load.

So through the night rode Paul Revere;  
And so through the night went his cry of alarm  
To every Middlesex village and farm,---  
A cry of defiance, and not of fear,

A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door,  
And a word that shall echo for evermore!  
For, borne on the night-wind of the Past,  
Through all our history, to the last,  
In the hour of darkness and peril and need,  
The people will waken and listen to hear  
The hurrying hoof-beats of that steed,  
And the midnight message of Paul Revere.

### ***Longfellow's Version of Revere's Ride***

1. What year did Longfellow write his legendary poem? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was the date of Paul Revere's famous ride? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many years separate the incident from the writing of the poem? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many lanterns signified that the British would leave Boston by land? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many lanterns signified that the British would leave Boston by Sea? \_\_\_\_\_
6. The lanterns that signified the route of the British soldiers were hung in a building. What was the name of that building? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How many lanterns did Revere see hanging in the church tower? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What time was it when Revere warned the colonists in Medford Town? \_\_\_\_\_
9. At what time did Paul Revere arrive in the town of Lexington to warn the colonists that the British troops were on their way? \_\_\_\_\_
10. At what time did Paul Revere arrive in Concord to warn the townspeople there? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Does Longfellow's poem ever mention anyone else riding with Revere? \_\_\_\_\_

# **The Real Story of the Ride**

## I. Background

- a. As leaders of the Sons of Liberty, Sam Adams and John Hancock had to flee Boston for the nearby countryside because the British had ordered their arrest.
- b. In the absence of Adams and Hancock, young Dr. Joseph Warren was left in charge of the Sons of Liberty.
- c. Warren had heard that on the night of April 18, 1775, the British were going to send 700 soldiers to arrest Adams and Hancock in Lexington and capture a stockpile of weapons in Concord.
- d. Warren sent out two riders to warn Adams and Hancock that the British were on their way.
  - i. William Dawes
    1. Dawes would travel the overland route from the neck of Boston through Lexington and on to Concord.
  - ii. Paul Revere
    1. Revere would be stationed across the Charles River in nearby Charlestown.
    2. There he would wait for a signal from Boston that would indicate the route that they British were going to take to Lexington and Concord.
      - a. Revere would be signaled by lanterns.
      - b. 1 lantern meant that the British were taking the long overland route traveling by land across Boston neck.
      - c. 2 lanterns meant that the British were taking the shorter route and rowing boats across the Charles River.
    - d. The lanterns were hung in the belfry of the Old North Church by Robert Newman and John Pulling.

## II. The Ride

- a. William Dawes snuck out of Boston and began his ride around 9:30 pm.
- b. After Paul Revere receives the signal of 2 lanterns he begins his ride around 10:00 pm.
- c. Revere arrived in Lexington around midnight and warned Adams and Hancock that the British are on their way.
  - i. Dawes arrives shortly after Revere.
  - ii. From Lexington both riders set out for Concord.
- d. On the way to Concord Revere and Dawes encountered Dr. Samuel Prescott at 12:45 AM.
  - i. Dr. Samuel Prescott joins the group.
- e. Around 1:00 AM the three riders encountered a British patrol.
  - i. Paul Revere was captured
  - ii. William Dawes escaped and returned to Lexington
  - iii. Only Dr. Samuel Prescott escaped and continued on to warn Concord.



### III. The Next Day

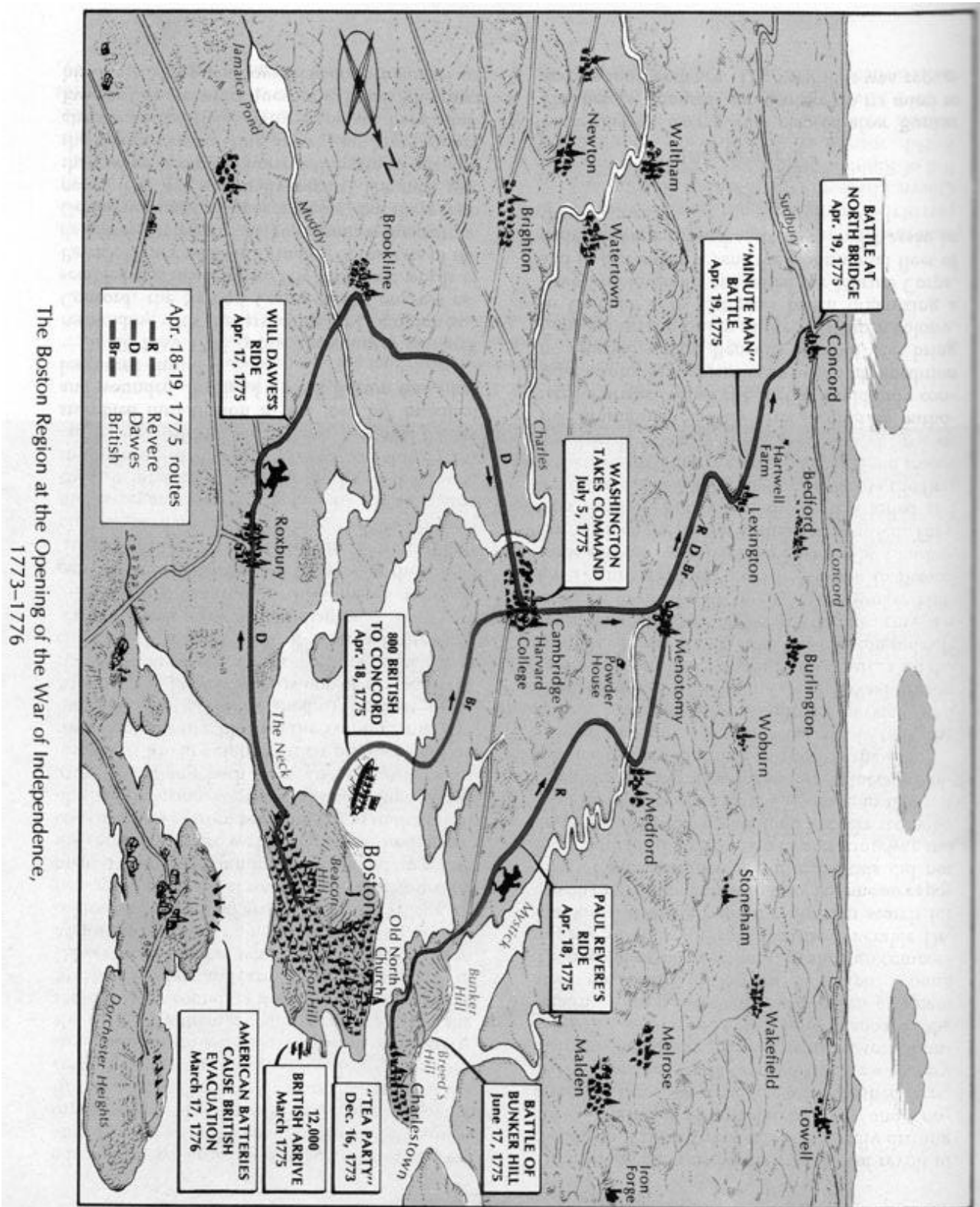
- a. When the British arrived at Lexington around 5AM, 77 minutemen were waiting.
  - i. A shot was fired from an unknown source and fighting broke out.
  - ii. 8 colonists were killed and 10 were wounded.
  - iii. One of the minutemen wounded was a freed slave named Prince Estabrook.
- b. The British marched on to Concord and arrived around 7:30AM.
  - i. The British found no stockpile of weapons because they had been moved in the night.
  - ii. When the British left Concord they found over 400 minutemen waiting for them.
  - iii. The minutemen fired at the British soldiers the whole way back to Boston.
  - iv. Colonists came from all over the countryside to join the fight.
    - 1. By the time the British made it back to Boston, 4,000 colonists had joined in resistance..
    - 2. By nightfall on April 19, 1775, 20,000 colonists surround British controlled Boston.

# Map of the Ride With Times



1. How many riders appear in the map key? \_\_\_\_\_ What are their names? 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_
2. What time did Revere leave Boston for Lexington? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What time did Dawes leave Boston for Lexington? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What time did Revere really arrive in Lexington? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What time did Dawes arrive in Lexington? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What time did Revere and Dawes meet Dr. Samuel Prescott? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What time did the 3 riders encounter a British patrol? \_\_\_\_\_ Who was captured? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What rider actually made it to Concord to warn that the British were on their way?  
\_\_\_\_\_



# The Midnight ride of William Dawes

**Directions:** Paul Revere made a historic ride on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April in seventy-five, but he was not the only one. William Dawes took arguably a more dangerous route traveling along Boston neck and also had to ride further to reach Lexington. Unfortunately for Dawes, the difficulty of rhyming his last name would result in his portion of the ride largely being lost to history. Not anymore! You are going to give William Dawes the credit that he deserves by writing him a poem of his own. You are to use this paper to write a 5 stanza poem. Each stanza should be 4 lines long. Your poem should be written from Dawes's point of view and should be historically accurate. Refer to your notes for details.

[illegible]